

Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

1. (Currently Amended) A machine-based method comprising:  
enabling storage of a binding specification that describes a document by associating individual content elements with individual layout elements for the document, the layout elements defining layout features or placement information to be applied to the associated content elements;  
combining ~~when the content and layout elements are combined~~ according to at least one binding included in the binding specification to generate the document based on the binding specification, the content elements, and the layout elements, wherein the binding specification ~~being~~ is stored separately from both the content and layout elements.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which at least one other binding is included in a different binding specification that describes another, different document by associating at least one of the content elements with at least one of the layout elements, at least one layout element defining layout features or placement information to be applied to at least one corresponding content element in the different document, the binding specification for the different document being stored separately from the binding specification for the document and separately from the content and layout elements.
3. (Currently Amended) A machine-based method comprising:  
enabling storage of a binding specification including at least one binding, the binding specification describing a document by associating individual content elements with individual layout elements, the layout elements defining layout features or placement information to be applied to the associated content elements ~~in the document~~,  
combining the document being generated based on the binding specification, the content elements, and the layout elements according to at least one binding included in the binding specification to generate the document based on the binding specification, the content elements, and the layout elements,

enabling storage of a different binding specification including at least one binding, the different binding specification describing another, different document by associating at least one of the individual content elements with at least one of the individual layout elements, the at least one layout element defining layout features or placement information to be applied to the corresponding at least one content element in the different document, the different document being generated based on the different binding specification, the content elements, and the layout elements, the binding ~~specifications~~ specification and the different binding specification being stored separately from the content elements and separately from the layout elements.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 3 in which the at least one binding provides a primary control for the generation of the document and the different document.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 3 further comprising enabling generation of the document and the different document using the elements and the at least one binding in the binding specification.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 3 further comprising enabling storage of the content elements and the layout elements.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 3 in which at least some of the layout elements and at least some of the content elements are identified by uniquely named binding sites.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 3 in which the content elements are stored in a portfolio and the layout elements are stored in a separate portfolio.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 3 wherein the binding specification includes a plurality of bindings and in which some of the bindings are layout-centric and some of the bindings are content-centric.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 3 in which the binding specification for the two documents are the same and at least one of the content elements and layout elements associated with the binding sites is different for the document and the different document.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 or 3 in which the binding specification for the two documents are different and at least some of the content elements and the layout elements are the same for the document and the different document.

12-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A medium storing a machine-readable program that enables storage of a binding specification that includes bindings that describe a document by associating individual content elements with individual layout elements, the layout elements defining layout features or placement information to be applied to the associated content elements when the content and layout elements are combined according to at least one binding included in the binding specification to generate the document, the document being generated based on the binding specification, the content elements, and the layout elements, the binding specification being stored separately from both the content and layout elements.

20. (Previously Presented) A medium storing a machine-readable program that:  
enables storage of a binding specification that includes bindings that describe ~~describes~~ a document by associating individual content elements with individual layout elements for the document, the layout elements defining layout features or placement information to be applied to the associated content elements;

combines ~~when~~ the content and layout elements ~~are combined~~ according to at least one binding included in the binding specification to generate the document based on the binding specification, and

enables storage of a different binding specification including at least one binding, the different binding specification describing ~~that describes~~ another, different document by

associating at least one of the individual content elements with at least one of the individual layout elements, the at least one layout element defining layout features or placement information to be applied to the corresponding at least one content ~~elements~~ element in the different document, the different document being generated based on the different binding specification, the content elements, and the layout elements, ~~when the content and layout elements are combined according to at least one binding included in the binding specification to generate the different document~~ wherein the different binding specification is stored separately from both the content and layout elements.

21-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) A medium storing a binding specification capable of configuring a machine to enable generation of documents based on the binding specification, a layout portfolio, and a content portfolio, the binding specification including global bindings and direct bindings that aid the formatter in formatting documents based on the binding specification, the content elements, and the layout elements, the binding specification stored separately from both the content portfolio and the layout portfolio.

46. (Original) The medium of claim 45 in which the global bindings include a list of element bindings that define a default binding for elements of a specified type.

47. (Original) The medium of claim 45 in which the global bindings include a list of model bindings that define a default model for a specified binding site.

48. (Original) The medium of claim 45 in which the binding specification contains composition sequences that aid the formatter in formatting documents, the composition sequences defining the order in which formatting is to proceed using bindings between content elements and layout elements, each of the composition sequences including composition blocks containing ordered lists of direct bindings.

49. (Original) The medium of claim 45 in which each of the direct bindings comprises a placement binding or a style binding.

50-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Original) A medium storing a machine-readable program that enables creation of a binding specification for use in formatting documents based on the binding specification, content elements referenced by the binding specification, and layout elements referenced by the binding specification, and stores in the binding specification global bindings and direct bindings that aid the formatter in formatting documents.

55. (Previously Presented) A machine-based method comprising enabling storage of a binding specification that describes a document by associating individual content elements with individual layout elements, the layout elements defining layout features or placement information to be applied to the associated content elements in the document the document being generated based on the binding specification, the content elements, and the layout elements, the binding specification being stored separately from both the content and layout elements.